

of chapter development as shown through their recruitment and retention of new members. The chapter made presentations to area middle schools that feed into their high school and were able to sign up 88 new members for the introduction to agriculture class. Additionally, the chapter worked with over 1,000 elementary students to increase their agricultural literacy and reading skills.

Farmers across the United States are responsible for providing food to families around the world and Illinois is at the forefront of this driver to our economy. There are over 76,000 farms in Illinois and the state is ranked second in the United States for agricultural commodity exports with nearly \$4 billion worth exported to other countries annually. The FFA helps keep this critical industry going by inspiring our youth to consider careers in agriculture and developing their leadership abilities for all facets of life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I am pleased to honor the Pontiac FFA Chapter for their impressive accomplishments and for receiving this distinguished award. I wish these students the best of luck in their future endeavors.

#### A TRIBUTE TO TCL CHINESE THEATRE AND FENG XIAOGANG

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Creative Life (TCL) Chinese Theatre on hosting the Beijing Film Panorama in America Festival and recognizing acclaimed Chinese Film Director, Feng Xiaogang during a Handprint Ceremony.

TCL Chinese Theatre, formerly known as Grauman's Chinese Theatre, has long stood as a tribute to the great men and women of film and television. The iconic signatures, handprints, and footprints in cement that have graced the theater's entrance since the 1920's, are visited by millions of people every year. It is fitting as we witness the growth of Chinese film internationally, that Hollywood celebrates this achievement in the cinematic arts throughout the world.

To mark this auspicious occasion, Feng Xiaogang will be immortalized in cement with a Handprint Ceremony. Mr. Xiaogang is an accomplished Chinese film director whose comedic films have been box office hits in China over the last two decades, and who has recently begun making dramatic period films. As the first Chinese director to receive this honor, Feng Xiaogang will join Cecil B. DeMille, Ron Howard, Steven Spielberg, Gene Kelly and Clint Eastwood, among other great film directors whose handprint impressions remind us of the talent that has brought so many stories to life through film.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating TCL Chinese Theatre and Mr. Xiaogang upon this historic occasion.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2012-2013 UPPER DARBY HIGH SCHOOL LUNAR RESEARCH TEAM

### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2012-13 Upper Darby High School Lunar Research Team on its second-place finish in the 2013 National Lunar Science Institute's national competition. The Upper Darby High School Lunar Research Team competed with colleges and universities from around the country. The student team members included Ranier Gran, Cuong Trihn, Joseph Dwyer, Mohammad Hossain, Kingson Lin, Omar Mukhtar, Evan Perotti, Evan Hunt, and Spiro Metaxas.

The team received tremendous support from its mentors Rosanne Burns and John Taffel, both Upper Darby High School teachers. It was an incredible accomplishment to finish second in the competition as a high school team.

The team researched the possibility of locating lava tubes (large underground tunnels) using temperature differences measured on the surface of the moon. It successfully confirmed the location of tubes at a number of suspected locations. These caves could someday be used as locations for lunar outposts.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the members of the Lunar Research Team, along with their parents and faculty mentors, for their hard work in the field of science and technology, and this well-deserved accomplishment.

#### GEORGE WELSH TRIBUTE

### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Welsh, current superintendent of Center School District in Colorado. His leadership and ability to think outside of the box has greatly benefitted the Center School District and provided students with opportunities to learn and achieve beyond ordinary expectations. Leading by example, through dedication to teaching and learning, Mr. Welsh has inspired teachers and students in the San Luis Valley to reach their full potential for over a decade.

Mr. Welsh was recently named "Superintendent of the Year" by the Colorado Association of School Districts, a well-deserved honor. Center School District has faced many challenges and headwinds, often operating with extremely limited resources. With Mr. Welsh's leadership, innovative use of technology and ability to maximize the resources available to the District, graduation rates in the Center School District have risen up to 93 percent, from 33 percent when he began in 1997. This is an extraordinary achievement.

In addition to being named "Superintendent of the Year" by the Colorado Association of School Districts, Mr. Welsh was also the recipient of the Demont Award from the Colorado Association of School Boards, naming him Outstanding Rural Superintendent of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. George Welsh for his dedication to education and leadership that has undoubtedly transformed many lives. Superintendent George Welsh is an incredible resource for his community, and I have no doubt that he will continue to have a significant impact during his education career, helping students and teachers reach their highest goals.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND ITS HONOREES

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which hosted its 37th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 9, 2013, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award at this annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana and have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association presented the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Theresa Ann Mayerik. For her outstanding contributions to her community, she is to be commended.

In 1976, Theresa Mayerik graduated from the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Physical Education. She began her teaching career with the Centerville School Corporation in central Indiana. While working in Centerville, Theresa started the school's first women's basketball program. After two years, Theresa returned to her hometown of La Porte, where she spent seven years teaching in the La Porte Community School System. During this time, Theresa pursued a master's degree in Education from Indiana University in South Bend and also completed coursework for an administrative license in Education. In 1986, Mrs. Mayerik became the assistant principal of Morton High School in Hammond, and after three years in this position, she was named the school's principal, a title she would hold for the next eighteen years. During her time at Morton, Theresa was able to implement the Advanced Placement and the Project Lead the Way curricula, increase parental involvement, and develop the Freshman Academy. In 2007, she was named Director of Secondary Education for the School City of Hammond, and three years later, she became Chief Administrator for Academic Services and Secondary Education. Among her many accomplishments during her tenure, Theresa implemented the Project Lead the Way Pre-Engineering Curriculum in all of Hammond's middle and high